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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 006565

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Powell tells Gul US doing its best in Iraq - Sabah  
Gul reminds Powell of the PKK - Sabah  
Powell chats with Kharazi - Sabah  
Erdogan: Time for self-criticism in the Muslim world -  
Hurriyet  
Bush: Iran should prove it suspended uranium enrichment  
program - Hurriyet  
Annan supports international flights to north Cyprus -  
Milliyet  
US-Russia competition lies behind election crisis in Ukraine  
- Milliyet

##### OPINION MAKERS

Erdogan issues a call for change for Islamic world - Yeni  
Safak  
Erdogan advises Islamic world - Radikal  
Sharm-al Sheikh conference ignores Fallujah - Yeni Safak  
Saddam's trial to begin before Iraqi elections - Cumhuriyet  
Al-Fatah's candidate is Mahmoud Abbas - Yeni Safak  
Sabra-Shatilla 'butcher' Gen. Eytan dies - Yeni Safak  
Israeli 'hawk' drowns - Cumhuriyet  
Hate crimes on the rise in US - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

Powell, Gul meet at Sharm-al Sheikh conference: In a  
bilateral meeting with Secretary Powell at the conference of  
Iraq's neighbors at Sharm-al Sheikh in Egypt, FM Gul  
reminded Secretary Powell of past US pledges to eliminate  
the PKK presence in northern Iraq. Gul told Powell that the  
Turkish nation expected 'concrete' action on the issue.  
Powell and Gul also discussed the upcoming elections in Iraq  
and the safety of Turkish truck drivers inside Iraqi  
territory. Powell told Gul that the US is doing its best on  
the security issue, and promised to continue those efforts.  
Powell also told Gul that the issue of starting  
international flights to northern Cyprus remained on the US  
agenda. Meanwhile, Turkish papers report Secretary Powell  
as having had a 'cordial chat' with Iran's FM Kemal Kharazi  
at a dinner on Tuesday evening. Iran denied that a  
'meeting' took place between Powell and Kharazi.

US-Turkey-Iraq Joint Committee Against Terrorism: The US,  
together with the governments of Turkey and Iraq, has  
started work to establish a joint committee for the struggle  
against terrorism, "Radikal" reports. Iraq's Ambassador to  
Ankara, Sabah Cemil Umrani, said the three countries have  
agreed to help Iraq and its neighbors to combat the threat  
of terrorism. Umrani stressed that while none of the sides  
prefers a military operation, Iraqi forces would not  
hesitate to fight against the PKK. The Iraqi Ambassador  
said the first meeting for the establishment of the joint  
committee will take place in Ankara. The US particularly  
emphasized the need to cut financial sources of terrorist  
groups as part of the joint action plan to be determined by  
the committee. Umrani asserted that terror organizations  
seek legitimacy by using the media in Iraq, but pledged to  
prevent Iraqi TV stations from joining that effort. Umrani  
added that some Kurdish groups' attempts to seized a  
privileged position in the Iraqi administration have caused  
concern for Baghdad as well. 'We want a central government  
in Baghdad which serve as the administration for all  
Iraqis,' he said. Umrani also warned against attempts to  
postpone the upcoming Iraqi elections on January 30.  
'Everybody should take this opportunity. Turkey can provide  
us significant support during this process,' he concluded.  
Erdogan calls for self-criticism in Muslim world: PM  
Erdogan called for self-criticism and change in the Muslim  
world at a conference held by the Islamic Development

Organization (IKT) in Istanbul on Tuesday. Erdogan stressed that problems in the Muslim world require methods that go beyond accustomed national practices, because those problems have reached a global level. He said that most Islamic countries are underdeveloped but still had rich underground resources. "We must work hard in solidarity without forgetting that this century is one for sharing," Erdogan stressed. Several government officials and businessmen from Islamic countries attend the three-day conference.

EU-backed Kurdish conference ends in Brussels: Kurdish interests should be defended if Turkey is granted a date for accession negotiations at an EU summit in late December, according to a conference held by the London-based Kurdish Human Rights Project under the auspices of the EU in Brussels, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Speakers agreed that the Turkish government should ensure the safe return of people displaced from their villages in southeastern Turkey, fight effectively against torture, and protect the Kurds' cultural and minority rights. Feleknaz Uca, Kurdish European Parliament lawmaker from Germany, called for Kurdish participation in the EU December summit at which Ankara's aspiration for full membership will be evaluated. The two-day conference's final declaration voiced support for Turkey being granted a date for EU entry negotiations. It said a democratic Turkey is not to be admitted into the EU without resolving its Kurdish question. The conference called on Ankara to grant constitutional recognition to the Kurdish people. The declaration urged the EU to call for an international conference with participation by the Turkish government and Kurdish representatives.

Putin due in Turkey: Russian President Vladimir Putin will officially visit Turkey on December 5-6 for meetings with top Turkish leaders, papers report. During his stay, Putin will discuss alternate routes for transportation of Russian oil to global markets, the transport of Russian natural gas through Turkey to Europe, and the fight against terrorism.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Fallujah and the Resistance Groups"  
Zafer Atay commented in the economic-politic "Dunya" (11/24): "The US is aiming to use Fallujah as a model for dealing with resistance groups in Iraq. The US hopes that by using severe action in Fallujah and by ignoring Geneva Convention and moral values, it might create a deterrent for future actions by the Iraqi resistance. Yet this argument has already proven false, as the violence in Fallujah has now spread to Mosul and Ramadi. Instead of thinking about a 'deterrent,' the US should go back to the history books and take lessons from the past, especially from Vietnam. . On the other hand, the resistance in Iraq against the occupation force is rather complex. There is no unity among the resistance groups, since some of them are acting with religious motivation while others are genuine patriots. However, there is one more group to add to this list: terrorists. Terrorists linked to Al-Qaeda and Al-Zarkawi continue to kidnap and murder innocent people. . The real Iraqi heroes who fight against the invaders deserve respect. Yet it is out of the question to put terrorists and patriots in the same category. They are terrorists, and they should be treated accordingly."

"The US Contradiction"  
Fikret Bila commented on the mass appeal Milliyet (11/24): "It is not expected that the Iraqi people will elect a pro-American administration in the upcoming elections. This is where the US contradiction lies. Surely it is not very realistic to expect the Iraqi people to support the occupiers at the ballot box. Only the Kurdish groups in Northern Iraq would support the US in the elections, since they are the only ones who have benefited from the US occupation. Support from the Shiites and the Sunnis should not be expected. Since the Shiites form the majority in Iraq, it would be natural for them to win the elections. As a matter of fact, the Shiites are avoiding a direct role in the resistance with this expectation in mind. They expect to come out of the elections with a mandate to form the new government. For this reason, they are not joining forces with the resistance until elections can be held."

EDELMAN